

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A piston pin having a low friction coating thereupon, said coating comprising:

a vapor deposited coating ~~of a compound of a metal, said compound being selected from the group consisting of: carbides, nitrides, oxynitrides, carbonitrides, sulfides, and mixtures thereof~~ comprising chromium nitride, said coating being disposed upon at least a portion of said piston pin.

2-4 (Canceled)

5. (Original) The piston pin of claim 1, wherein said vapor deposited coating is polished.

6. (Original) The piston pin of claim 1 wherein the coating is deposited as a plurality of layers.

7. (Original) The piston pin of claim 1 wherein the coating is formed a plurality of layers of different compounds selected from the group consisting of carbides, nitrides, oxynitrides, carbonitrides, sulfides, and mixtures thereof.

8. (Original) The piston pin of claim 1, wherein said vapor deposited coating is a coating which is deposited by a process selected from the group consisting of: physical vapor

deposition, chemical vapor deposition, evaporation, plasma assisted chemical vapor deposition, arc vapor deposition, and combinations thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) A piston assembly for an internal combustion engine of the type in which a piston is connected to a connecting rod by means of a piston pin, wherein the improvement comprises:

at least a portion of ~~one of~~ said piston pin and connecting rod being coated with a vapor deposited coating of ~~a compound of a metal, said compound being selected from the group consisting of: carbides, nitrides, oxynitrides, carbonitrides, sulfides, and mixtures thereof~~ chromium nitride.

10-11 (Canceled)

12. (Original) The piston assembly of claim 9, wherein said coating is a polished coating.

13. (Original) The piston assembly of claim 9 wherein the coating is deposited as a plurality of layers.

14. (Original) The piston assembly of claim 9 wherein the coating is formed a plurality of layers of different compounds selected from the group consisting of carbides, nitrides, oxynitrides, carbonitrides, sulfides, and mixtures thereof.

15-20 (Canceled)

21. (New) The piston pin of claim 1, wherein said chromium nitride is doped.
22. (New) The piston assembly of claim 9, wherein said chromium nitride is doped.